

# GOLAN

The UNDOF Journal



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No. 103





# Dear Reader!

The first cut is the deepest, Rod Stewart sang that line many years ago. The meaning struck a chord in my life when I heard it the first time. With each rotation the personal behavior and quality of work given by the newcomers is observed very carefully by the mission-proved soldiers as well as civilian professionals.

Once a UNDOF Battalion Commander told me that the rotations of personnel are the biggest challenge to UNDOF. I was really surprised to hear that. But in the meantime since I have seen two rotations, I am now convinced of that. Just ask yourself which



company would survive a change of nearly 100% of its personnel within one year?

I think the new soldiers are trying their very best to

fulfill their tasks. The same applies to me with my new UNDOF job as I take over the reins from my predecessor whose excellent work was renowned. I have to admit that it is a great pleasure for me and a challenge to do so.

The Golan Journal seems to be a perfect media for all UNDOF members to recount their experiences and for everyone to read. So do not hesitate to write articles whenever you think there is an interesting topic to talk about. You are most welcome. If you will be on holiday soon, enjoy your time away and come back with renewed vigor.

With best regards

Maj Hans Hutter

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Photo by WO II Gernot Payer

Back (Page 24): Austrian artist in camp Faouar  
Photo by WO II Gernot Payer

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# Force Commander's Message

## *Dear Fellow Peacekeepers*

It gives me a great pleasure and satisfaction to address you once again in this issue of the Golan Journal. We have now seen the end of spring and are moving on to the heat and sun of the Golan summer. Since the last issue of the journal, some have already departed from the mission area, some have arrived and some of our comrades are due to depart very soon.

In this opportunity, I would like to welcome those who arrived here to join hands with us in UNDOF and OGG. From wherever you have come from, now you have become a part of an Organization, which is a viable and global force in maintaining International Peace and Security. Do not, for one minute, underestimate your importance for the region and the United Nations.

Indeed, peace is a most noble goal to strive for. Due to your presence and dedicated service here, the people of the Golan can farm their land and send their children to school. In the mean time, I would not forget to thank those,



leaving very soon, for your excellent and professional support in order to fulfill our mandate and I wish you all the best.

During the last three months, UNDOF has hosted numerous and varied delegations from all around the world. All of the visitors have praised UNDOF on its high morale, effectiveness and maturity. Each and every one of you are ambassadors for your respective countries and armies. Well done.

The overall situation in the Golan has remained calm and stable. This is very different to some

other areas outside of our Area of Operation. Stay alert and vigilant, you are responsible for yourselves and your comrades. Do not take anything for granted, be safe.

Lastly, I thank you all. I wish you all the best during your stay in UNDOF.

*Thank you  
Danke  
Arigato*

*Điakujem  
Dziękuję  
Merci*

Lt. General B. N. SHARMA  
Force Commander UNDOF

## Chief of Staff Words

### *Comrades of UNDOF!*

It is summer again and these are my last words in the Journal. It has been a very good year for me, full of challenges. Looking back, sometimes I have doubts about how much we have accomplished. But then, thinking of the HQ restructuring, the many developments in staff work, the solution to integration, several new policies, the work on the questions on the APC fleet, positions, construction, and many more aspects, maybe I am just not fully aware of all our achievements. Ultimately, I think we can rightfully say that we improved the Force to make it a little better than one year ago. Mission accomplished? You tell me.

This last year was very rich in many aspects. Even after having worked with the United Nations in NY for years, I learned a lot about peacekeeping with the UN.

I enjoyed your company and must express my highest consideration to many of you.

I found myself in a circle of highly professional Comrades. Learning about the different national backgrounds and military systems was indeed extremely rewarding. I will keep the best memories of this year.

To the CISS, LtCol Carl Hussey I can just reiterate my highest appreciation. The same goes for the CMPO, LtCol Tracz. Thank you for your loyalty and support. LtCol Kaiser,



after wearing two-hats for months, just took over the function of CLPO. Good luck for this challenge! I was happy finally to welcome LtCol. Trzaska as the new COO. Good luck, Anrdzej, in this demanding position. I deem myself also lucky to have had LtCol. Pracher and Andrzejczak in the lead of the Battalions. With your staffs, you kept a very good shop, congratulations! To my staff in the COS office, Capt Wöhrer and Sgt Gogl, I can only express my gratitude for your loyalty and uncompromised readiness to fulfill any task at any time. You always gave your utmost best and I think we accomplished a lot together. The LOGBATT, I congratulate for the improvement in so many aspects. Just the VOR of two APC fleets is one example for so many aspects of your great performance. While much of the work of the OGG, AUSBATT and POLBATT seems to be routine, I am fully aware of how good you perform and I think the patrolling and

monitoring of the AOS has even improved in the last year. Keep up the good work! To the AUSBATT HQ staff special thanks for supporting me in my national role. Many of the civilian staff members have always found ways to provide the best support to the soldiers. Dear colleagues, undoubtedly, the military contingents need you to be flexible and creative in providing your services. Please keep up your efforts for giving the Force the best support.

I reiterate my thanks to the FC and the CAO. Serving with you was certainly one of the most rewarding aspects of my tour.

For me, it is time to leave. I am thankful having this time together with you all. I wish you all, those staying and those leaving, all the best for the future and I am looking forward to meeting you somewhere sometime!

Col Andreas Safranmüller  
COS UNDOF



# New People in UNDOF



## The New Chief Operations Officer

LtCol Andrzej Trzaska was born in CRACOW on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 1967. He joined the Polish Army in 1986 as an Officer Cadet in Tadeusz Kosciuszko Officer Training School in Wroclaw.

Following his commissioning in 1990 he served in a variety of posts including that of a platoon leader, a company commander, a deputy battalion commander and a staff officer in the Corps HQ. During that time he attended several NATO courses as well as NATO exercises.

From 1998 to 2000 he attended the Polish Academy of National Defence in Warsaw. After graduation he served as a staff officer for the operational branch of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mechanized Corps in Cracow. In 2003 he was appointed as a senior staff officer to the operational branch of the Multinational Brigade North in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was a part of the NATO Stabilization Forces. After a tour of duty in SFOR he came back to the 2 Mechanized Corps and became an officer, primarily responsible for all operational aspects of the mission rehearsal exercises during preparation process of the next rotation Multinational Division Central South which is a part of Coalition Forces in Iraq.

He is married with two children Kalina and Piotr.

His hobbies include reading, history and geography.



## The New LO-Alpha

Maj Manfred-H. URREGG was born in Austria in the village Gurk on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 1943. He grew up partly in Graz/Styria and the other part in Carinthia and finished Technical High-School of Civil- Engineering at VILLACH in the year 1964, after that he joined the Austrian Armed Forces as a One year-Volunteer to the Infantry-School at Glasenbach/Saalfelden. There he was trained on heavy arms and became a tank-hunter at 5<sup>th</sup> PzJgKp/StB 5 in Leibnitz.

He left the Army in 1966 and was working as a civil engineer and continued also his training as reserve-officer. Due to continuously following up with several courses, he was ordered to the LWB 541/LWSR 54 at Graz in the position of the S3/OPS. After a reorganization he became S4/LogO at the ErsReg 54. Again after a few years the LWSR 54 changed to the KdoB 1 and his position was DCO and S3/OPS.

In his civilian profession he was working abroad for about 20 years as a project-engineer at several construction-sites, in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Russia, and Libya. Finally he was project-manager for a hospital-facility-management and finished his job there in February 2004.

Due to his new army-position in Vienna at the Territorial Commando in the Training section since 2000 and later as an ADC, he became Project-Officer in the Department of Public Relations and was assigned as Branch-Head until his posting to UNDOF/HQ-Element/LO-Alpha.

## Visits to UNDOF



*LGen Sonneveld, OGG General from Netherlands  
(13<sup>th</sup> April)*



*Visit of the Governor of Quneitra at CF  
(15<sup>th</sup> April)*



*Syrian Generals meeting with FC Lt.Gen. B. N. Sharma  
(19<sup>th</sup> May)*



*Members of U.S Embassy in Damascus, participated in  
UNDOF Operational Briefing (25<sup>th</sup> May)*



*Lt-Gen Masashi YAZAWA, Commanding  
General of 1st Division, Japan (1-4<sup>th</sup> June)*

### Further visits to UNDOF

American Journalist, Interview with FC,  
(8<sup>th</sup> April)

Canadian Journalist, Washington bureau of  
The Globe and Interview with COS and CO-  
LOGBATT (22<sup>th</sup> April)

Mr.Yasuhide Nakayama, Member of the House  
of Representatives (30<sup>th</sup> May)

Mr. Juraj LISKA, Minister of Defense,  
Slovak Republic (30<sup>th</sup> May)

Mr.Murohushi, International Peace Cooperation  
HQ, Cabinet Office (30<sup>th</sup> June)



## The visit of the Minister of Defense

The visit of the Minister of Defense was something really extraordinary for SLOVCON and it was a little bit more because the Chief of Staff of Slovak Armed Forces (SAF) accompanied him. Moreover, these two key men of SAF were accompanied by the Chief of Minister's office, his Personal Advisor, and speaker of Ministry of Defense and by the leader of Minister's protocol. Every visit like this one has a great influence on the atmosphere as a whole. A great piece of independent work was done by Slovak guys in preparation of the HQ position itself and with preparation of a reception on every position of 3<sup>rd</sup> coy. The visit schedule and the course of events were well thought out and prepared.

I was extremely pleased how smoothly everything went during this visit. The guys made a great effort because the entire visit was under the close eye of journalists from Slovak Press Agency and their colleagues from television broadcasting. Former OiC 3<sup>rd</sup> Coy Martin and others appeared on TV-screen interviews and were published in several newspapers. Moreover, the visit itself emphasized the interest in our work and consequently had noticeable impact on the moral state of the Slovak unit. At the end of the visit the Minister of Defense announced officially the beginning of a SLOVCON



*The Minister of Defense Mr. Juraj Liska greets the soldiers from SLOVCON*

personnel reduction by 30 men and their replacement by Croatian soldiers. The work for the United Nations, especially in our peacekeeping mission UNDOF, has been a heartfelt experience. I have been doing everything for my homeland to ensure its honorable place in this mission for the future. I am convinced that our presence in this region is in the highest interest for Slovakia, a source of honor and pride. Of course such a major change will take time, long discussions and grave decisions to be made. However, all should be advised to prepare for such a transition. So if you meet me in one of my melancholy moods, the reason is very simple, my last six months in this mission have just started. It is a pity that fewer Slovak guys will have an opportunity to enjoy fruitful and friendly cooperation with our Austrian friends.

*Author: Maj J.Tomanek*



*Force Commander Lt. General B. N. Sharma and Minister of defense Mr. Juraj Liska*

## Outgoing – Incoming

The time was coming! 177 Austrian and 54 Slovakian soldiers had to leave AUSBATT. Through two rotation flights they were leaving the Golan Heights back to their homelands. If the rotation is to be conducted in a perfect way, a well considered organisation and running off must be prepared. The order for the rotation was done by COO/AUSBATT, Maj Rosenzopf, after he had conducted coordination-meetings with the Branch heads.

The major part of the preparatory work had to be done by our logistic soldiers: First, equipment and weapons with ammunition had to be returned, cash advance for the incoming soldiers had to be requested and buses for passenger transport loaded to capacity had to be made available.

Also the comrades from the personal branch were stressed. They had the order to coordinate the necessary replacing with Austrians International Operations Command and the repatriation lists for the two rotation flights with the branch heads and coy commanders. Two days before the rotation flights the soldiers packs had to be deposited in the logistic store. Our CLO/AUSBATT, Maj Pschandl had given exact regulations for size and weight of the baggage, in fact the luggage depositing was supervised by him. Before that the luggage was inspected by the doghandlers and their dogs for drugs and explosives.

On 7th June the outgoing soldiers, who were not used to handover and takeover, had to say good-bye! Partially a really difficult farewell. At 0945 the outgoing soldiers were dismissed by our CO, LtCol Pracher, and he also returned thanks for the excellent way of conducting the duty and co-operation. Following that, the outgoing soldiers left Camp FAOUAR with destination „International Airport Damascus“. Until the radio message „This is 18A, Sassa-checkpoint passed, direction CF, over“ situation in Camp FAOUAR was still calm. This information circulated faster than it sounds and in spite of 34 degrees many „Golanis“ were assembled for welcoming the „Geckos“ on the parade ground.



*FF-brigade/AUSBATT says good-bye in a very wet way*

After the welcoming, the „Geckos“ were taken over by the Coys for the following duty. The incoming soldiers had a oneweek handover and takeover period with their predecessors. In fact, all had several really busy days.

One week later the same procedures restarted, because the second rotation flight was conducted. For now AUSBATT will have two months for force integration training and for receiving the utmost of operational readiness.

*Author: Maj E. Strohmayr*



*Dog-check of the baggage*



## Attention, time is.....

Every morning, always recurring, most soldiers in Camp FAOUAR are awakened by the Communication Center (ComCen) with the call: "Attention, time is 0630, good morning". Indeed ComCen is misused as cerebral stimulant. The ComCen of Camp FAOUAR is part of the Signals Platoon from HQ-Coy/AUSBATT and consists of a leader and five operators. These six soldiers have to guarantee that ComCen is prepared for working at any time of the day or night. For that reason readiness to work must be maintained by shifts around the clock. This shift of duty has to be done by the members of the ComCen in three categories. The first category concluded A and B-Duty, both duties take 12 hours and must be spent in the ComCen. The second category is the D-Duty, also called as standby duty, allows a certain degree of freedom and relaxation. During this duty ComCen-soldiers must fulfill different jobs inside the Signals Platoon and it is forbidden to leave Camp FAOUAR.

The third category is spare time. For four days in a month, each member of the ComCen will not be charged with business and he/she is allowed to leave the Camp. The main tasks of the ComCen are to accept incoming calls from all over the world, to page people and to conduct announcements via the address system and last but not least, to transmit incoming faxes and to dispatch outgoing faxes. ComCen offers these services to all UNDOF-members in the Camp, Austrians, Canadians, Japanese, Poles, Slovaks and so on. These soldiers must speak English in a perfect form. Sgt Kaltenbacher, one of the ComCen-operators, has described his feelings and impressions about this duty, which is not as easy as it appears and as follows: "The ComCen is inside shelter number 12. The door in the ComCen leads

All five operators are eager to help by placing messages over the intercom during the twelve hours shift, night or day. We care for all incoming calls from Austria and the rest



*Sgt Kaltenbacher and MCpl Kramer are transmitting an incoming call*

of the world. You can imagine that it is a stressful job, the operator spends the whole shift in the shelter, the phone is ringing almost all the time or a fax is arriving.

It is mandatory to be well versed with the Computer and you must be able to speak English to complete this job. It is very important for me to make sure that the soldiers is contacted if one of their family members calls the ComCen for them.

The service of ComCen is necessary to the institution and benefits the whole community of UNDOF. I request you all to understand that if the operator sounds a bit stressed on the phone, please do not take it personally, it is just because some times working in the ComCen gets very stressful."

*Author: Maj Strohmayer & Sgt Kaltenbacher*



*ComCen crew:  
Sgt Kaltenbacher;  
Sgt Höbinger;  
Cpl Pesendorfer;  
SSgt Majanovic,  
Sgt Mair;  
MCpl Kramer*

## In Case of Emergency

The local UNDOF radio net broadcasts a car accident. The vehicle of OGG Observers slipped off the road. Polish Medical Team being on call in Camp Ziouani jump to their feet having been alerted by POLBATT Operations Officer. The ambulance is on the way. Doctor Capt Adam Litarski, paramedic WO III Krzysztof Kubera and driver Pte Piotr

Aleksandrowicz receive additional information about the condition of the victim. On the spot of the accident, immediate and professional help is necessary. An initial diagnosis states - serious injury of neck rings and compound fracture of the leg. The paramedic seems to be highly experienced. He had received the relevant training during his mission in Iraq.

Fortunately, this is an exercise only. Every soldier in the area of this peacekeeping mission is obliged to participate in such a training. The scenario resembles the real situations and threats that can be encountered in the area of UNDOF. During the most recent Gopher Hole-exercise, POLBATT medics took the opportunity to train in the procedures of crossing the Technical Fence in the vicinity of Observation Post 80 of the 2nd Company POLBATT, though so called Water Gate during medical evacuation to the A-Side.

Performing all the activities during the training, medics receive wide recognition and the best marks. Everyone is absolutely certain that in case of real threat the emergency team will come to their rescue.



*Capt Adam Litarski (on the right) and WO III Krzysztof Kubera during action*

*Capt R. Rzaca PIO POLBATT*

## Marching Soldiers

A bright morning. The rising sun shines down on the challengers' faces. There is a route before them leading through the paths and wilderness of the area in which they do their military service. The blue sky mixes with the blue flags waving in the wind, and tiny spots disappear in the distance. With such picture, each of the three marches in the area of POLBATT responsibility began. The route between position 27 and 80A southernmost position of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Com-

pany and UNDOF as well, was divided into three parts. The COYOTE March led the marching soldiers from the area of AUSBATT to the area of responsibility of the 1<sup>st</sup> Company FALCON to position 80. The next elements of the marching puzzle were

*First team  
ready to start  
Scorpion March*

SCORPION March and WADI Patrol. The whole route amounts to 70 km, 19 km that passes along the bed and steep walls of Wadi Ar Raqqa and finishes





## Marching Soldiers



*Tired but happy Japanese soldiers - ready to face a new challenge at the finish line of Wadi Patrol*

at the steep wailing wall right before position 80A.

The most characteristic of the marches is not only varied terrain but first and foremost is its participants. Always smiling, determined to win from the start, highly motivated and full of resoluteness, as well as ready to accept the challenge of their own weakness and tiredness, they made an effort to complete the march! All of those who started the march, reached the finish. Tired, many times with facial expressions full of pain, yet somehow, they were happy and after a while even smiling and ready to face a new challenge.

Although the march does not seem to be a sport competition

and the main goal is to complete it, covering the distance and overcoming tiredness, not breaking a record, one of the Polish soldiers remarkable achieve-

ment is worth mentioning. Pte Grzegorz Jakubiak covered the distance of Wadi Patrol at the time of 2 hours and 14 minutes, setting a new record of that route. He nearly ran the entire route and managed to do what seemed to be almost impossible.

The marches have been finished. A cloud of dust settled on the ground after the last participant completed the march. However, the paths will not be deserted. Every day they will be traversed by POLBATT soldiers mandated to patrol them.

*Article & Photos: Capt R. Rzaca*



*Lt. General Bala Nanda Sharma on the route of Coyote March*



# UNDOF Olympics

## *Camp Ziouani hosts first ever UNDOF Olympics - 29 April 2005*

As the day unfolded, Friday, 29 April turned out to be a beautiful day, sunny and warm, on the Golan Heights. Finally the long waited for UNDOF Olympics would occur! Originally scheduled as a two-day (weekend) event, bad weather forced the rescheduling of the UNDOF Olympics not once, but twice. Now, with a revised one-day format, teams and spectators from the Bravo side arrived by the bus and truckloads in order to be on hand for the official opening ceremonies. Sharply at 0800 hrs, the soldiers of UNDOF HQ, AUSBATT and POLBATT formed up beside their counterparts from the Canadian Contingent and J-Con on the Camp Ziouani parade square waiting for the Force Commander, Lieutenant General B.N. Sharma to officially open the games.

Planning began in January to make these Olympics an activity filled with fun for all, participants and spectators alike. So, immediately after the parade, the games began at 0830 with teams facing off in several sports, Ball Hockey, a Relay Race, Soccer, Tennis and Volleyball while spectators moved around the various sites cheering on their teams. It was a festive atmosphere with soldiers wearing coloured T-shirts to identify them with their Contingents. After some hard played games, the results were provided to the Information Tent and it is noteworthy that in a friendly yet competitive environment, each Contingent ended up winning at least one trophy signifying a Gold medal win for its team.

As the Games were to be on for the whole day, meals had been planned with a view to provide a broad range of choices from each country. Therefore, ethnic foods were prepared and served at the Dining Hall throughout the day while an outdoor eating area was set up near the refreshment stand and an information tent to allow everyone to sit and talk while they ate. The food was very tasty and included soups, Goulash and Pea soup with ham, traditional Japanese foods and also the usual BBQ fare of Hamburgers and Bratwurst. The desserts were also very enjoyable and it was a good thing for everyone that there were sports to play as most were heavily laden with calories. For those who preferred fruit, there were several choices ranging from Oranges, Kiwi, Bananas, and Apples to Melons of different varieties.



*Goal for the team from Austria*



*Force Commander, Lieutenant General B.N. Sharma opened the games*



# UNDOF Olympics



Volleyball



Ball Hockey

On completion of the final games, teams assembled back on the Parade Square to wait the arrival of the Force Commander for the presentation of awards. With music playing on the Public Address system, soldiers danced and played air guitars while passing the time and all assembled including the spectators and managed to go around the square twice doing the "Wave". With the sun shining and music to lend an air of relaxation to the day, everyone enjoyed themselves.

As for the sports themselves, noteworthy is the head to head competition of the Relay Race where J-Con overpowered their competition with a Gold Medal winning time of 42 minutes 44 seconds to cover

the 12 KM distance by the eight runners of the team. It is important to understand that in order to cover the 12 km distance within the time stated, J-Con runners averaged a time of three minutes, thirty-three seconds, (3:33), per KM, truly amazing. The Silver medal team from AUSBATT took slightly longer at 45 minutes 08 seconds while the Bronze Medal team from LOGBATT (Canadian Contingent) placed at 46 minutes 47 seconds.

With positive results such as noted above, the Force Commander was happy to tell everyone during the closing ceremonies that he had personally seen the high level of Esprit-de-corps evident in UNDOF and was very happy with the results.

For my part, I am glad that the Olympics are over, it has been a wonderful challenge to coordinate the games and bring the member nations of UNDOF together to share in the experience of sporting competition and in closing, I would be remiss if I failed to mention the hard work of all supporting members from all Contingents to ensure that the First UNDOF Olympics were a huge success.

Article: Capt. P.A. Kallaghan

## Team results

### Ball Hockey

Gold	Canada;
Silver	Austria / Slovakia

### Soccer

Gold	Austria
Silver	Poland
Bronze	Canada

### Tennis

Gold	Austria
Silver	Japan
Bronze	Poland

### Volleyball

Gold	Poland
Silver	Austria / Slovakia
Bronze	Undof HQ





### *The HQ UNDOF exercise*

For 31 years UNDOF has been in existence in the Golan Heights. But even previous Golan UN soldiers do not remember anything happening like this. A very special edition of a command post exercise took place under the command of COS Col Safranmüller in May 2005 for the soldiers of UNDOF. It lasted eleven days including the weekend. Please note that the normal day-to-day work were not to be interrupted. That was the reason why the exercise started after the usual working hours, lasting normally until late at night.

What was the reason for this exercise? Someone wanted to seek the wisdom of the Greek Oracle of Delphi, which certainly could have given an answer.

Unfortunately this "fact finding" trip never materialized, so that for some comrades, the answer may always remain a mystery - that is, until the exercise will prove its worth in the future.

But it seems obvious that any training has the goal to improve the knowledge and the ability of every UNDOF soldier and employee to be proactive and reactive in a better and faster way, if some risky incidents happen. This exercise was certainly unique in significance as well as duration and intensity in the history of UNDOF.



*Welcome to the exercise*

To give you a taste of the scenarios that occurred, we invite you to the following: For example - a heavy earthquake was simulated, leaving destruction in its wake in the UNDOF area of responsibility. Therefore, plans for rescue task and refugee handling were developed. No doubt a task not easily solved by



*Why did you do this thing to me?*



*Decision making process supervised by  
COS Col Safranmüller*



*Maj Kuras, the CPX organizer*





*Civilian staff members fight against power of nature*

a think tank within one night. The results however, were really admirable.

Besides many other incidents a possible Anthrax attack was simulated. White powder trickling out of an envelope was found at the Austrian field post-office.

What had to be done? Firstly the room was sealed. Secondly the persons affected by the powder were cleaned and put under quarantine for possible medical treatment. Then special NBC forces collected the substance for analysis and the affected areas had to be decontaminated.

So let's ask now: did only the strongest survive? Well, all survived like nearly always in such exercise situations. Remember the ones who valiantly fought in the first battle lines in front of ancient Troja? The others, who perhaps behaved like submarines lying silently on the safe ground of the sea, invisible with all engines stopped only to resurface after the threat certainly survived. Not to mention those comrades who may have been on leave! Or were they simply being smart? I do not think so, because it was an exercise that needed to be undertaken as preparation for emergency situations. Anyone who missed this training opportunity may not be ready for the worst case. For those who already have the expertise and those who participated in the exercise, we are counting on you.

*Author: Maj Hans Hutter*

*Photos: WOII Gernot Payer*



*Anthrax alert in the post office*

## Welcome to Club Med!

I'd like to introduce the Japanese mini-medical team to our readers, operating from the small room at the MIR in Camp Ziouani. The Japanese contingent is small enough as you know, including only 43 members, therefore our medical team is also small. It's composed of one Senior Medical Officer (SMO: Doctor, it's me) and 2 Medical Staff including a certificated nurse. However, the 2

Medical Staff also have additional work; driver at CZ and supply Sgt. at CF, respectively, so they can't spend all their time at the MIR because their other tasks keep them very busy. Usually at the Japanese room in the MIR, there is a lonely and only one Japanese guy, SMO (like Buddha). I don't know exactly what he is doing there, but probably some kind of job. Except for duty medical

inspection, SMO must ask our government to supply additional equipments and keep them up to date.

Because most members of our contingent are young and rarely have past medical history, just

one or two patients come into the MIR on average. Sometimes, we have no patients in a whole day! SMO has a lot of free time. He can even sleep here much more than he does in Japan. However, if we have complicated cases or need emergency treatment, kind and professional Canadian Medical Staff is always there to support us! I'd like to pass on my personal, sincere appreciation to them in this article. So far, we are patiently waiting for sick persons, so please feel free to drop by the J-CON Club Med, at any time. We can offer not only professional medical service, but also Japanese traditional green tea "Ryokucha", excellent conversation, and medical alcohol through the night (Sorry, we don't have Japanese Sake). Enjoy your health!

Article: Lt(N) T. Motosuneya



MEDIVAC training with multi-int. medical team.

## Visit of LT.GENERAL M. Yazawa

As we approached the second half of our UNDOF tour, J-CON had the honor of receiving a very important visitor. Lt.Gen M. Yazawa, Commanding Officer of JSDF 1<sup>st</sup> Division, visited 19<sup>th</sup> Japanese Contingent of UNDOF. ADJ, Maj A Gokon was accompanying him on this important visit.

After intense preparations, on 1 June 2005, the General arrived and was welcomed with a guard of honor at the Parade square in CF. On 4 June, he was welcomed at CZ. Lt.Gen Yazawa met with UNDOF FC for a dialogue re-

garding past achievements and future cooperation between J-CON and UNDOF. Both Generals as well as UNDOF COS and CAO enjoyed a traditional Japanese lunch, including Sushi, of course.

The General's visit was a memorable one, which included many different activities, briefings and tours on the Golan Heights.

Many thanks to those who assisted in preparations and supported this visit.

Article: 1Lt(A) Y. Hiramitsu



Guard of Honor for Lt.Gen Yazawa



## MP Platoon Change of Command

On 13<sup>th</sup> July 2005, at Camp Faouar, command of the Military Police Platoon was relinquished by Capt P. Mellema and assumed by the new Force Provost Marshal Capt E. Walla. The FPM is both a staff position (Police and Security Advisor to UNDOF) and a line position (CO MP Platoon). At present the MP Platoon consists of 28 members from four different nations (Austria, Canada, Poland, Slovakia) serving at three Detachments (Camp Faouar, Camp Ziouani and between A and B Gate) and at MP HQ Camp Faouar. In addition, two Regimental MPs are serving with J-CON and cooperating with the UNDOF MP, another Regimental MP is attached with POLBATT. UNDOF Military Police covers all operational and administrative Military Police aspects of



the Force and is responsible for all military UNDOF and UNTSO personnel in the MP AOR (Syria and Israel) – for civilian personnel only in UN compounds & UN vehicles. Main tasks of the MP PL are investigations, traffic enforcement, the enforcement of UNDOF regulations, crossing inspections, preventive policing and advising

senior leadership on security and police related matters. Special tasks include security escorts, ICRC crossings and Physical Security Reviews. UNDOF MPs are producing almost 200 reports on traffic accidents a year and in addition approximately 400 reports on various incidents. Our motto: Five nations, one mission and one goal.



### *The New FPM*

Capt Erwin Walla joined the Austrian Armed Forces 1977. He has served several years in Austria and in Missions abroad and now belongs to the militia system, holding the rank of a Major. He completed several tours with UNDOF,

UNFICYP, UNIKOM and KFOR in different MP positions. Last year he was in charge as MP Plans and Operations Officer of a Multinational MP Brigade in Kosovo, consisting of 160 MPs from five different nations. He was one of the founders of the Austrian Military Police Course and the Course Director for many years. Besides of his military career he has studied Psychology at the University of Vienna and is looking forward to serve as a military psychologist in Kosovo.



### *The New DFPM*

Capt Renee Point was born in North Bay, Ontario as the eldest of three children. She grew up in a small French community called Astorville where she stayed until she left to attend the University of Sudbury, Ontario. Capt Point

has a degree in Psychology and Law. She has spent the past 11 years in the Canadian Forces, 5 years as a reserve MP NCM and transferred to the Regular Forces as a Military Police Officer where she has completed 6 years of service. Capt Point has three tours – Bosnia 1998 and 2003 and Haiti 2004 – and has completed two postings, one in Security Intelligence and the second as a DCO of the Military Police Unit serving the Canadian Forces Naval Pacific Fleet.

## OGG UNMO Training

As with any military organization, OGG UNMOs are expected to achieve a high level of proficiency in all skills required for employment as an UNMO on the Golan Heights. To aid this process Observer Group Golan (OGG) has a training cycle that provides individual and collective training to all OGG members. These activities are designed to ensure a smooth progression between basic skills and more advanced training. Training, like any aspect of operational capability, is a command responsibility and commanders at all levels from Team Leader through to Station Chief are responsible for ensuring high levels of training.

UNDOF supports both OGG Individual and Collective training activities. UNDOF provides initial medical, mine awareness and fire fighting training to new UNMOs during their initial training and in-processing period. This training provides enough skills to ensure that UNMOs can deploy onto their first OP safely.



*Fire fighting training for new UNMOs*

The medical training of the new UNMOs is focused on car accidents, the most likely cause of serious injury on the Golan. UNMOs are trained in approaching and dealing with casualties of an accident and conducting basic first aid until the UNDOF ambulance arrives.

In a briefing from the CANLOG Training Cell, new UNMOs are made aware of mines present on the Golan. This basic training has a follow up period later during the UNMO's tour of duty, with a practical training given by the UNDOF EOD teams on each side.

After completing their initial training, UNMOs start their first OP. After their 3<sup>rd</sup> OP, UNMOs are expected to pass the Chief's Challenge. In this



*Medical training focused on car accidents*

test UNMOs have to display a sound knowledge of SOPs, armored vehicles and Aircraft recognition. After passing the Chief's Challenge an UNMO is considered a senior and can help train new UNMOs.

The Chief's Challenge is designed to ensure sound levels of individual skills. Good individual skills are the building blocks of more advanced collective training activities. Several collective exercises are scheduled every month and these are designed to test individual skills when they are employed in a realistic exercise environment. These activities practice both OGG members and UNDOF staff in responding to a range of emergency scenarios around the AOR. 4 types of training are conducted and these are Rapid Reaction Group Training, ambulance training, lost vehicle procedures and Mine awareness/Mine Extraction training. In all these activities both OGG and UNDOF staff are tested in realistic and demanding environments in order to ensure the safety and operational effectiveness of all personnel. All these activities require close coordination between OGG and UNDOF.

*Authors: Richard Bushby & Paul Vannisselroij*



# Dead Sea Ultra Marathon

16 Austrian and one Canadian from UNDOF participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Dead Sea Ultra Marathon held on 15 April 05 in Amman, Jordan. A fundraiser for "The Society for the Care of Neurological Patients".

The Dead Sea: The lowest point on earth: Lying in the heart of the Syrian-African rift valley at the southern outlet of the Jordan River. The Dead Sea region is internationally known for its unique geological, historical and biological characteristics. Geologically this region lies at the lowest point on earth and contains the saltiest large water body in the world. Historically, the Dead Sea Basin is the site of

Masada, Mount Nebo and Jesus Baptism site, among many other historical features. The high salinity of the water provides swimmers with natural buoyancy without any efforts.

The experience: Regardless of the distance, all runners had to put their rucksack labelled with a different color depending on the distance they were registered for. Full and Half-Marathoners took appropriate buses to their starting points and the Ultra participants left directly from the center (+900 meters altitude).

The idea was that everyone was to finish at the same place

We took off at 0630 hrs for the Ultra Marathon race, the start was slow going and the temperature was cool but quickly warmed up to a balmy 24-Celsius halfway and continued to rapidly rise to the end with a blistering 38 degrees with no wind.

The course was uphill for the first 10Km, and then downhill for about 25Km (Extremely demanding for the quadriceps muscles) and finally the last 15 Km was mostly rolling hills. After the run obviously, we went for a dip and floated for a while in the amazing Dead Sea, to relax our aching muscles.

the lowest place on the earth at the Dead Sea (-403 meters altitude) a difference of almost 1400 meters. This year's event brought about 1600 people from all over the world, representing 45 countries.

I would like to personally thank all the runners, Sgt Christian Berger (the bus driver) for keeping us safe during the entire trip, Lt I Gröppel (AB Welfare Officer) for organizing the trip, and finally Capt Klaus Profanter who at the last moment took over as the OPI and did a great job.

Thank you all for making this trip a truly enjoyable and memorable experience.

*Author: Sgt Danny Lagacé*

Rank	First Name	Surname	Event	Finishing Time
Capt	Klaus	Profanter	50 Km	3:36:24
Sgt	Danny	Lagacé	50 Km	4:03:38
SSgt	Christoph	Cizek	50 Km	4:45:02
Sgt	Ronald	Martschini	50 Km	5:35:36
Capt	Andreas	Bruckner	50 Km	5:40:37
SSgt	Klaus	Suppan	50 Km	5:40:39
SSgt	Holger	Preslmayr	21.1 Km	1:31:15
MCpl	Christian	Bauer	21.1Km	1:31:17
MCpl	Thomas	Ruby	21.1km	1:41:11
WO III	Ludwig	Oberhoeller	21.1km	1:42:54
LCpl	Stefan	Weissenbacher	21.1Km	1:43:08
SSgt	Christian	Weilpoltshammer	21.1km	1:44:41
MCpl	Martin	Karner	21.1Km	1:44:52
Mrs.	Barbara	Heidinger	21.1Km	1:54:35
Maj, MD	Wolfram	Heidinger	21.1Km	2:03:23
Cpl	Gerhard	Zikulnig	21.1Km	2:14:37
Sgt	Christian	Berger	Driver	N/A

## UNDOF continues to reach out

The most recent humanitarian activities undertaken by all members of UNDOF, both here, in the local community, as well as abroad, continue to demonstrate their unfailing commitment to making an as effective and direct impact as possible, wherever and whenever it is needed the most. An earlier issue of "The Golan Journal" recounted how UNDOF rapidly responded to the regional plight of Tsunami victims around the Indian Ocean basin. UNDOF's concern was also demonstrated in response to the more profoundly personal suffering of a local family facing the daunting prospect of life threatening pediatric surgery.

In recent weeks, I am pleased to report that all members of UNDOF, both military and civilian, have steadfastly rejected the notion of "donor apathy" and have continued to respond to a wide variety humanitarian issues with remarkable personal generosity and enthusiasm. The tangible results of their efforts ought to make each and every one of them justifiably proud.

In response to a tragic accident in the vicinity of Camp Faouar, during which a local boy lost his life and another sustained injuries, an appeal went out among UNDOF members to raise funds for the families, as a neighborly gesture of sympathy and support. In no time, a total of 20,000 SYP was raised and presented to the families, together with a bed to aid in the recovery of the injured boy.

On a lighter note, an auction of various traditional handicrafts locally produced and donated by UNDOF members, was recently conducted in Camp Ziouani. The proceeds of this enjoyable and interesting project were donated to benefit local charities on the A side. As a measure of the success and popularity of this activity, it will soon be replicated on the B side.

In one of UNDOF's farthest reaching and ambitious humanitarian projects to date, members undertook to organize the distribution of nearly two and a half metric tons of school supplies to needy school children in the most deprived and remote areas of rural Afghanistan, as well as throughout the Quneitra Governorate, here on the Golan. In the end, it was the scale of this effort that presented the most interesting challenge.

The project started out as a private appeal from a member of ISAF, the NATO-sponsored international peacekeeping force deployed in Afghanistan,



*In a scene repeated at some 22 schools throughout Quneitra Governorate, these children in Khan Arnabe excitedly await distribution of the school supplies donated by UNDOF*

for the provision of basic school supplies for local distribution to desperately impoverished school children. When this appeal was communicated to the membership of UNDOF at large, the response was, per-



*As a token of our appreciation, the FC UNDOF, Lt. Gen. B.N. Sharma presents Mr. Maher Shweiki with a commemorative plaque, as Mr. Nadeem Meerza, the Deputy Governor of Quneitra Governorate, looks on*



## UNDOF continues to reach out

haps predictably, overwhelming. In addition to the school supplies that came pouring in, UNDOF members demonstrated their usual enthusiasm by donating cash for the local purchase of school supplies and materials.

On top of what had been collected, and in an extraordinary gesture of generosity, a local businessman in Damascus, Mr. Maher Shweiki, of the Al-Manar Printhouse, donated some 2250 kgs of ideally suited, high quality school supplies including notebooks, binders, pads, folders, etc. In the end, nearly 2500 kgs of supplies were collected. It was quickly recognized that there were sufficient resources available to split them up and donate a certain amount to the school children of Quneitra, in addition to that which would be sent to Afghanistan.

In the face of such a successful collection process, the question then became how were we going to physically get all the supplies all the way out to Afghanistan? As this was what amounted to a private initiative, we needed to raise the shipping costs on our own. After literally scores of e-mails and telephone calls, it was our sister mission, UNAMA, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, that finally came to the rescue. As they operated a regular UN flight out of Dubai to Kabul, they agreed that if UNDOF

were to ship the consignment from Damascus to Dubai, they would undertake to trans-ship it from Dubai on to Kabul.

Once that was decided, all that was required was to find the funds necessary to ship the supplies to Dubai. Again, an appeal was launched to the members of UNDOF, and, once again, the response was swift and un-reserved. Indeed, a total of \$ 1,400.00 USD was raised in a matter of days from UNDOF staff members in Camp Faouar, Camp Ziouani and ROD. With the funds available, arrangements were made with a local freight forwarder and, before long, the consignment was on its way to Dubai. Within a few weeks, the fruits of our labor became apparent, as photos of the distribution activities in Afghanistan began to arrive back in UNDOF.

In cooperation with representatives from the Governate of Quneitra, the balance of the supplies, amounting to nearly half a ton, were divided up among some 22 local schools and distributed to 1200 individual primary and high school students on their last day of classes. I can report that their joy and appreciation was evident on their faces, as well as in their excited



*A member of the Canadian ISAF Contingent in Afghanistan poses with two happy young recipients of school supplies sent by UNDOF, during the distribution process in April*

expressions of thanks.

While all UNDOF staff members may take satisfaction in a job well done, we owe a debit of gratitude to Mr. Maher Shweiki for his donation. Also, special thanks must go out to Rasha Al-Abed and Jihad Hasan, in connection with the school supply project, as their tireless efforts made the whole thing possible. Kudos as well, to Aida Bichara-McNally, for her clever negotiating skills in the souk.

Finally, we extend our thanks and gratitude to our friends and colleagues in UNAMA and ISAF, both in Dubai and in Kabul, for demonstrating how, working together, we can extend the reach of UNDOF's humanitarian arms, not only throughout our own neighborhood, but well beyond.

*Author: John Mackenzie*

## Gamla Hike and Golan Heights Winery Visit

Those who love nature, remote places with great views or well kept cultural - historic sites are highly recommended to visit one of the 54 National Parks and Nature Reserves located all over Israel, many of them in northern Galilee and on the Golan. Of the latter I would like to mention Nimrod Fortress (large Moslem fortress built in 1227-1230, that controlled the northern Galilee on the route to Damascus) Banias (Caesarea Philippi), Tel Dan (natural resort at the Dan river that is the most important source to the Jordan river) and Gamla.



*View to ancient Gamla*

A group of 35, civilian and military staff from UNDOF visited the Gamla Nature Reserve on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, which is located some 20 km south of Quazrin at the brink of a plateau offering a great view to the Sea of Galilee. At the Gamla reserve you find two deep canyons, a high waterfall and as a very special attraction of this place the biggest birds of prey nesting colony in Israel.

Gamla has also a great historic aspect worth mentioning. The ancient city of Gamla was located on a steep ridge that has a shape like a camels hump, hence its name. Tracks of civilization go back to the Bronze age, most prominent however became Gamla as the town where Jews fought the Romans. They joined a revolt against them, but had to pay their price. Since Gamla was strongly fortified and located very exposed it was hard to be taken. First it was king Agrippa who besieged the rebellious city, but was forced to retreat. Finally

however it was king Vespasian who succeeded to break the walls. The vast majority of the Jews were killed by being driven to death at the steep cliff of this hill. Those who are able to read Latin may wish to look into the

authentic source of Josephus Flavius, the Jewish War. According to him some 9000 inhabitants had been killed then. Yet in 1968 it was rediscovered on an environmental survey of the Golan, then archeologists began excavations and revealed amazing discoveries such as remnants of the city wall, the synagogue (one of the oldest ever discovered in Israel) and residential quarters.



*Good mood after a good tasting*

The steep descend to the archeological site and even more the ascent may have been a little challenge for some of us, but it was absolutely worth making it and it was a great impression in splendid nature.

For those who like tasting wine more than hiking the second part of our excursion offered something special, a visit to the Golan Heights Winery. It was established in 1983 in Quazrin and may not be the biggest winery in Israel, but definitely produces exclusive and top quality wines. Its vineyards extend to some 600 hectares located at altitudes from 400 to 1200 meters above sea level. The soil is volcanic and basaltic with ideal climatic conditions to cultivate wine. The production of grapes per harvest is some 5000 tons. There are many delicious types of wine that make it worth to go there and taste them by yourself.

*Author: Maj Siegfried Perr, FWO*



## UNDOF Procurement Section

We are a team of sixteen personnel responsible for procuring a wide variety of equipment, goods and services for UNDOF. We procure requisite commodities through competitive solicitations from qualified vendors. Depending upon the complexity of a requirement and the value of the commodity to be procured, solicitation is issued. UNDOF's acquisition activities are regularly posted on the UN-HQ website.

We are proud to announce that we have demonstrated our professionalism and efficiency in delivering the complete requirements for the UNDOF Modernization Programme. Whether it was a matter of constructing a new building, refurbishing an armored personnel carrier, the purchase of radome equipment or construction of a communication tower, all programmed activities were fully accomplished by the Procurement

purchases undertaken by the UN System, we encourage new vendors to partake in the bidding process. In April 2005, UNDOF actively participated in a Business Seminar in Damascus and Aleppo which was well received by the business community.

Our procurement personnel have been actively supporting DPKO's newer Missions by undertaking both short-term and long-term duties. DPKO Mis-



Average we produce 650 Purchase Orders and 100 contracts each year. UNDOF's purchasing volume ranges between USD 12 million to USD 14 million each year.

We are also responsible for selling UNDOF's used and written-off properties by undertaking a competitive bidding process.

Section, in a timely manner.

In close coordination with the Requisitioners, we continuously establish multi-year systems contracts and openended contracts that result in cost savings and operational effectiveness.

Although UNDOF's purchasing volume is considerably smaller compared to the global

sions in Iraq, Ivory Coast and Haiti are just few examples.

We also provide cross training by encouraging other UN offices to visit UNDOF.

We will continue to remain as a backbone to the Mission support activities.

*Author: Balakrishnan Amirthalingam*



